

Federal Private Lands Programs for Bird Conservation

Purpose of this Presentation: Build awareness of Federal Programs available for conservation of Cerulean Warbler.

Goals of the Presentation:

- **Make sure you are more aware of these programs and funds.**
- **Stimulate discussion at this session about these funds and programs**
- **Help result in more use of these programs and funds for bird conservation**

This information represents the work of the Federal Subcommittee of NABCI. An earlier draft was presented to the US NABCI Committee as a way to help advance one of the 9 Committee goals. The Committee agreed that the Federal Subcommittee should continue to pursue this work, helping to make more bird conservationists more aware of these programs and finding out how NABCI can assist in providing needed training, information, and experience to bird conservationists.

Funding By Federal Programs

Department

Agency	Program	FY 2002 Approp. M
---------------	----------------	--------------------------

Agriculture

Forest Service (State and Private Forestry)

Forest Legacy	\$65.0
Forest Forest Incentives	\$ 6.4
Forest Stewardship	\$33.2
Urban and Community Forestry	\$36.0
Forest Health Management	\$80.2
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$95.8
Subtotal	\$316.6

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farmable Wetlands Pilot	-----
Conservation Reserve	\$1,520.0
Wetlands Reserve *authorized at 250,000 acres/year	-----
Conservation of Private Grazing Land	\$254.0
Wildlife Habitat Incentives	\$ 15.0
Conservation Security * new for 2003	-----

Environmental Quality Incentives	\$275.0
Subtotal	\$2,064.0

Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife	\$36.6
Coastal Program	\$11.3
Private Land Stewardship	\$10.0
Landowner Incentive Program	\$40.0
North American Wetlands Conservation	\$44.5
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$ 3.0
Subtotal	\$145.4

National Park Service

Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance	----
-----------------------------------------	------

EPA

Wetlands Protection (Grants)	\$15.0
Coastal Management and Marine Protection	-----
Water Quality and Watershed Protection	-----
Control of Pesticides, toxic substances, and oil spills	-----
Geographic Initiatives	-----
Subtotal	\$15.0

Army Corps of Engineers

Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program	\$19.0 (FY2001)
Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program	\$21.0 (FY2001)
Subtotal	\$40.0

Multiple Agency

Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$450.0 (FY2001)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$ 17.1 (FY2001)

Grand Total	\$3,047.8
--------------------	------------------

Program Summary Descriptions

Forest Service

Forest Legacy. Identify and protect environmentally important private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. Help maintain the integrity and traditional uses of private forestlands. Land purchases and easements. www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/

Forest Stewardship. Encourage long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forestlands. Keep lands and watersheds in productive and healthy conditions. Provides technical assistance to landowners. Develop landowner forest plans. Works with State Foresters. www.stateforesters.org/ www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/

Forest Incentive. Technical assistance and cost-share payments to non-industrial forest land owners to help them implement their Forest Stewardship plans. Manage with NRCS. www.stateforesters.org/ www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/

Community and Urban Forestry. Technical assistance and grants to maintain, restore, and improve health of urban trees, forests, green spaces, and sustainable forest ecosystems in urban and community areas. Promotes creation of healthier and more livable urban environments. Encourages partnerships with non-governmental organizations. www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop

Forest Health Management. Provides technical assistance, pest suppression, infestation mapping, forest health monitoring, training, and develop new forest health protection strategies. Works jointly with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. www.fs.fed.us/spf

Cooperative Fire Protection. Helps state and local governments provide fire protection and suppression programs, especially in wildland-urban interface areas. Strengthens rural volunteer fire departments. Utilizes Federal Excess Personal Properties. Promotes fire prevention and partnerships. www.fs.fed.us/spf

Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve. Incentives to landowners to convert highly erodible or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Annual payments according to multi-year contracts. www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Wetlands Reserve. Financial support to landowners for wetland restoration and protection. Voluntary easements from landowners and cost-share payments for wetlands rehabilitation practices. Includes tree plantings.
www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Environmental Quality Incentives. Cost-share program providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to landowners to address natural resource concerns in environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Includes pest, forest management. www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Farmable Wetlands Pilot. Voluntary program to restore farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving hydrology, and vegetation. Enroll through the CRP. Expanded to Nation-wide by 2002 Farm Bill. Annual rental payments, incentive payments, cost-share payments. www.fsa.usda.gov

Conservation Security. Voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for conservation, protection, and improvement of soil, water, and related resources. Payments for traditional conservation practices and those that practice good stewardship. www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Conservation of Private Grazing Land. Voluntary program that helps owners and managers of private grazing land address natural resource concerns while enhancing the economic and social stability of grazing land enterprises and the rural communities that depend on them. www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Wildlife Habitat Incentives. Voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Provides technical assistance to landowners and others, to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.
www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill

Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Voluntary habitat restoration of wildlife and fish habitats on private lands. Financial and Technical assistance through voluntary cooperative agreements. States help identify priorities. www.fws.gov/partners

Coastal Program. Funding for 16 high-priority coastal ecosystems. Incentives for voluntary protection of endangered, threatened and other species on both public and private lands. www.fws.gov/cep/coastweb

Landowner Incentive. Provides technical assistance and grants to states, Indian tribes, District of Columbia and territories to establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs. Provides for continuing traditional land use practices. New in 2002. www.fws.gov

Private Land Stewardship. Provides grants and technical assistance on competitive basis to individuals and groups to conduct voluntary conservation efforts on private lands to benefit federally-listed, proposed for listing, candidate species or other at-risk species. New in 2002. www.fws.gov

North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Provides matching grants to private and public organizations, individuals, for wetland and associated uplands conservation projects in the US, Mexico, Canada to help implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. www.fws.gov

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act: establishes matching grant to fund projects that promote the conservation of birds in the US, Latin America and the Caribbean. Supports conservation initiatives and cooperation as well as provides financial resources. www.fws.gov

National Park Service

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance. Works with community groups, local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. Provides technical assistance through application process. www.nps.gov/rtca

Environmental Protection Agency

Wetlands Protection. Regulatory permits for dredged or fill material under section 404 of Clean Water Act, Assistance to States and Indian Tribes in developing wetland programs, develop technical tools and guidance, promote better understanding of wetland functions and values, and support voluntary restoration of wetlands by local communities. www.epa.gov/owow

Coastal Management and Marine Protection. Administration of the National Estuary Program under section 320 of the Clean Water Act and programs under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Includes Marine debris and Coral Reefs. www.epa.gov

Water Quality and Watershed Protection. Administration of the Non-point Source Program, water quality monitoring, Clean Water Action Plan, waste water management, water quality criteria and standards. Provides funding support for communities and governments. www.epa.gov

Control of Pesticides, Toxic Substances, and Oil Spills. Regulation of pesticides and toxic substances of importance to bird conservation. Coordination of prevention of and cleanup of oil spills. www.epa.gov

Geographic Initiatives. Support of initiatives to help focus public and private resources and expertise, authorities at all levels of government for ecosystem management and habitat conservation and restoration. Initiatives include the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi River, Chesapeake Bay, South Florida, US-Mexico Border, American Heritage Rivers, Northwest Forest Plan. www.epa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers

Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program: Restores historic habitat conditions to aquatic ecosystems to benefit fish and wildlife resources; improves the quality of the aquatic environment for the public; and fosters cost-effective partnerships with private and non-profit sponsors. Included are wetlands and vegetation in shallow reservoir headwaters and wetland sub-impoundments on reservoir perimeters. www.usace.army.mil

Multiple Departments and Agencies

Land and Water Conservation Fund: Federal funds to purchase land for public land ownership and provides matching funds to states for planning, developing and acquiring land and waters for state and local open space and for natural resource protection and recreation enhancement. www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/lwcf; www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/swcf; www.usbr.gov/laws/wcfa

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Uses Federal funds, cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, and private funds to support conservation on public and private lands. Provides grants to federal, state, local agencies; colleges and universities, and domestic and international conservation organizations. www.nfwf.org

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. There is a great deal of Federal funding out there to be applied for conservation of birds.**
- 2. Surprisingly, many conservationists are not aware of these programs and funding; or they are not aware of how to access the funds.**
- 3. These funds are competitive and we must get in there and work for them. Each year the funds are spent, with or without us.**
- 4. We need to work to expand these funds. Many of these funds have grown recently and we can help make that happen.**
- 5. Many of the programs can be bent toward bird conservation. Bird conservation can be an integral part of the program.**
- 6. I am very optimistic about the future use of these funds and programs to advance bird conservation. We can build effective partnerships with use of these funds and programs.**